

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Project Britannia: A Sovereign Clean Energy Transition

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Project Britannia Proposes Repurposing UK Offshore Assets to Power a Sovereign Clean Energy Future

What this is: A strategic proposal to repurpose existing UK offshore infrastructure into integrated clean energy hubs, combining Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), green hydrogen production, and desalination to secure national energy and water independence.

Project Britannia today unveils a comprehensive roadmap to transform the UK's offshore landscape. By integrating Rolls-Royce SMR technology with high-capacity electrolyzers on repurposed platforms, the project aims to deliver a continuous, weather-independent supply of green hydrogen and fresh water, directly supporting the UK's "hard-to-abate" sectors including heavy goods vehicles (HGVs), maritime shipping, aviation, and non-electrified rail.

The Economic Case: Repurpose vs. Remove

UK offshore decommissioning is commonly estimated in the range of **£44–£80 billion**, with a substantial portion of the liability expected to fall to the public purse through tax relief—figures often cited at around **£24 billion**. Project Britannia's central question is therefore practical as much as it is technical: **before we spend tens of billions to remove ageing offshore assets, should we first evaluate whether some can be repurposed safely and transparently to deliver clean power, fuels, and industrial resilience?**

This is not an argument for avoiding proper regulation or end-of-life responsibility; it is an argument for **sequencing**—assessing repurposing options first, and decommissioning what cannot meet clear safety, environmental, and economic tests. Furthermore, these 50-year-old structures have become established marine biodiversity hotspots and nurseries for fish; Project Britannia seeks to preserve these accidental "artificial reefs" while generating sovereign value.

The Britannia Charter: Our Commitments

At the heart of this proposal is the Britannia Charter, a set of core principles ensuring the project serves the national interest:

- **Sovereign Ownership:** Ensuring critical energy and water infrastructure remains under UK strategic control.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** Partnering with nature by preserving marine ecosystems and eliminating sea-discharge of brine.

- **Economic Resilience:** Creating high-skilled jobs through a "Skills Passport" for transitioning offshore workers.
- **Transparency:** Open-book safety and environmental monitoring for all repurposed assets.

Circular Economy & Valorisation

Project Britannia moves beyond simple energy production to a true circular model. By-products traditionally viewed as waste are reframed as valuable resources:

- **Oxygen:** High-purity oxygen from electrolysis will be captured for medical use, aquaculture, and industrial wastewater treatment.
- **Brine Valorisation:** Concentrated, mineral-rich brine will be converted into de-icing agents and chemical feedstocks. Unlike dry rock salt, liquid mineral brine activates instantly on contact and avoids significant scatter losses, potentially reducing overall material use.

Implementation Timeline

- **Phase 1 (2026–2028):** Regulatory pathways, feasibility studies, and Skills Passport pilot.
- **Phase 2 (2028–2032):** First-of-a-kind (FOAK) cluster deployment and hydrogen grid integration.
- **Phase 3 (2032+):** Full-scale fleet rollout across the UK Continental Shelf.

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Note to Editors:

The author of this proposal is an independent civilian with no financial interest in, or formal association with, any government department or private company mentioned herein. References to specific technologies (e.g., Rolls-Royce SMRs) are for illustrative purposes to demonstrate technical feasibility using leading UK examples. Decommissioning cost estimates are drawn from publicly available UK industry and government reporting.

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